USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410
Date: March 13, 2007

Les Purcell
Attn: CENAB-RE-ES
Re: Greenbelt ACE
PO Box 1715
Real Estate Division
Baltimore, MD 21203

Dear Mr. Purcell:

Our office is responsible for providing assistance in forest insect and disease management issues on federal lands within a six state area, including the District of Columbia. One insect issue we are currently facing is the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), an exotic insect from Asia. Emerald ash borer (EAB) probably came from Asia in wood packing material. EAB was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. Since then, EAB has been found in Ohio and Maryland in 2003, northern Indiana in 2004, and northern Illinois in 2006.

Since its discovery, EAB has killed more than 25 million ash trees in these states. EAB has caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Maryland) and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs. It has also cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

A concerted effort to stop EAB has been launched by state and federal officials. As part of this effort we want to make federal land managers aware of this exotic forest pest. We have enclosed the Emerald Ash Borer Pest Alert publication for your information. We also would like to determine if sites are susceptible to EAB. To help in this determination we will be updating and collecting more recent site information for our database, such as the appropriate contact people, addresses, phone numbers, presence of campgrounds, picnic areas and natural resource information for the sites. If possible, we would like to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to help determine areas of susceptibility to current and future pest issues.

Our office will be contacting your site(s) to gather this information. If we should be contacting someone other than yourself, please provide us with that information. Rick Turcotte is responsible for EAB activities in our office and can be reached at 304-285-1544.

Sincerely,

KAREN FELTON
Biologist
Forest Health Protection

Enclosure